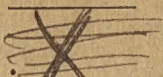


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689



FIELD DIARY

Mr. E. A. Goldman

June 12 - July 2, 1926  
(Official title.)

Period, Jan 20 to \_\_\_\_\_

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Arkansas  
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~~to~~ June 12, 1926  
Left Washington, D.C. 250 A.M.  
for Hot Spgs, Ark. to attend  
National Conference on State Parks  
and to visit game and bird  
reservations in Ark.

~~June 13. En route to  
Hot Springs, Ark.~~

June 13. Hot Springs,  
Ark. Arrived Memphis 7:25  
A.M.; left 9:35 A.M.; arrived  
3:20 P.M. at Hot Spgs.

June 14-17. Attending  
National Conference on State  
Parks. On June 15 trip was  
made to Petit Jean State  
Park and on June 16 to  
Arkansas National Forest. Party  
were guests of Lions Club of  
Mena.



June 18, Little Rock, Ark.  
Left Hot Springs 9 a.m. and  
arrived Little Rock, 11.30 a.m.  
Got in touch with Guy  
Amos and completed  
arrangements for trip by  
auto to Big Lake country  
and game territory in  
eastern Ark.

June 19. Little Rock to  
Forest City.

Left Little Rock about 4 P.M.  
with Guy Amos, stopped  
for supper at Ball's Bluff  
and reached Forest City about  
10 P.M.

Route through country largely  
cultivated to cotton. Much  
of this land formerly swampy

June 19 con,  
and overgrown with cypress.  
Have a loose alluvial soil  
growing good cotton and  
other crops.

June 20. Forest City  
to Blytheville.

Left Forest City about 6.30  
A.M. and drove for a couple  
of hours to Wynne, where  
we had breakfast and then  
continued to Jonesboro where  
we arrived at 9 A.M. Drove  
out of town about 12 miles  
to a meeting of the Crowley  
Hills Fox Hunters Association  
where Amos and I conferred  
with the members of this  
new organization who are  
especially interested in



June 20 con.  
stocking the country with  
foxes. Met here Silver  
Dudley, a lawyer, and  
representative in state  
legislature. Left Jonesboro  
about 4 PM, and arrived  
Blytheville about 6 PM.

June 21. Blytheville,  
Ark.

Was joined by L. L. Bryan  
early in morning and  
spent day in a trip to  
Big Lake Bend Reservation  
and in consideration of  
reservation problems.

Big Lake Reservation. An  
area of some 11000 or 12000  
acres, formerly a wonderful  
bass fishing area, but now

June 21 con.

largely drained and threatened  
with complete ~~oblation~~ obliteration  
as a water area. It was  
formerly fed by a great  
volume of water from

Little River, which combined  
waters from Mississippi River  
sloughs in southeastern Mo.

A drainage canal tapping  
Little River has had the effect  
of lowering Big Lake by  
reducing the flow into it.

American Egret, A few seen  
at Big Lake, but not known to  
nest here.

Great Blue. Several seen.

Woodcock. Several seen by  
Bryan while working <sup>with</sup> alive  
in May and June.

Wood duck. A number noted



June 21 con  
at Big Lake this year, said  
to be more young ones noted  
than is usual.

Sam - a few said to resort to  
Resurrection,

Wild hump a few said to  
come in on resurrection.

Earthquake 1811. This placed  
a number of oak trees into  
upside down places such as Big  
Lake and Sourdough leading  
from Lake. Here the skeletons of  
stumps and logs still remain.

June 22. Rhyolite to  
De Valls Bluff.

Left Rhyolite and made  
early morning trip to Walker  
Lake. Here about 14 acres of  
former cypress swamp - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
growth included the nesting sites

June 22 con.

American egrets and great blue herons of which there were perhaps several hundred in the aggregate. Though local drainage this roost is completely abandoned and the ground beneath deeply cracked and dry and grass up to poles would higher than a man's head. Only comp. few old nests remain.

Returned to Blytheville about 9 A.M. and left there about 10 A.M. for ~~De Val~~ Truman where I saw L.B. Nix who described roost of white and great blue herons near Ft. Francis River. Left Truman for De Valls Bluff about 3 P.M.



June 23. (Wed) De Valls  
Bluff to below Ft. Charles.

Left De Valls Bluff 10.40 on  
launch "Arkansas" of Arkansas  
Game and Fish Comm. on cruise  
down White Riv.

Beautiful views along White  
River which we are descending.  
Banks 10-30 ft. high. Course  
of stream very tortuous.  
Stop for lunch at Camden  
about 1 P.M.

American syc. line along  
bank. <sup>persimmon</sup> oaks, ~~maple~~ sweet gum, pecan  
Tupelo, ~~dogwood~~, ash, on higher  
ground - willows in lower part of  
points where accretions are being  
made.

Wild geese. Beautifully dropping  
and chasing flocks along banks.  
Shooting out over water at  
this time.



~~Grand~~  
~~Ark.~~ <sup>White</sup> Riv. Sun. views - clouds,  
beautiful reflections of gracefully  
drooped trees along banks - each  
view seemingly more beautiful  
than the last.

June 24 (Thurs)

Below St. Charles to Bridge on  
White River.

Left place we tied up to sleep  
bank last night about sunup ~~to~~  
at 6.50 A.M.

*Sterna cutellaria*, several  
seen early in morning a few  
miles below St. Charles, flying  
along White Riv. ~~and~~ ~~when~~  
~~they were feeding~~ the  
birds dropping at intervals to  
the surface of the water and  
evidently feeding.

Joe A. Wilkins

Rosedale, Miss  
or Watson, Ark.

Reached R.R. bridge across White River  
about noon, and met J.A. Wilkins  
who is in the business of handling



duck hunters from his house boat. Wilkins has the reputation of being a very reliable man and well informed concerning game conditions.

In the afternoon a trip was made in Wilkins' boat to some lakes in the woods above the mouth of Lague Bayou, on the west side of White River. These have water varying in depth from about 3 ft. to about 10 or 15 ft. and are in places heavily wooded by cypress trees. They are only a few miles from a great red-gum area to the west where the ducks feed freely at night and they afford resting places for the ducks during the day. They contain myriads of small musshells.

June 24 con.

which also afford considerable food for ducks.

Game Lake. This is the place where the famous duck picture was made by Guy Amster last year. It is a lake of about 400 acres of the character of those mentioned above. Guy says at the time the picture was taken the birds covered the water so thickly everything that new arrivals had to pause to find resting places among those already on the water and they were densely packed for about 25 ft. back on the bare stopping banks. These lakes all contain some bass, but not in the former numbers. Guy caught 5 bass during the afternoon.

stopped for the night with  
J. A. Wilkins.

June 25 (Fri.). Bridge  
across lower White River down  
around Big Island and up  
White River to point above H Lake  
where we tied up for the night.

Left <sup>Bridge</sup> about 7 A.M. with Wilkins  
and Guy <sup>motor</sup> on trip on "Arkansas"  
down <sup>up</sup> around Big Island and  
back to Bridge where we arrived  
return about 2.30 P.M.

Big Island. This is the local  
name to a large island located  
at the mouth of the White and  
Arkansas rivers. The clear water  
of White River meets the reddish  
waters of the Arkansas which  
spreads across the head of Big Island  
and sends strong streams around  
both sides of Big Island into  
the Mississippi. The island is  
higher than most of the adjacent



country lying along the White and Arkansas rivers. Before the Civil War it was largely in cultivation, but is now almost entirely covered with 2<sup>nd</sup> growth forest. Formerly it contained a number of lakes, but most of these have filled up, and only one of worth mentioning remains. This has silted up, and the recent and floods have the water at a higher level than formerly, the result being that much of the willow timber formerly growing along the border is being killed. J. A. Wilkins says that it is out of the line of flight of ducks and that few now visit the place. Up on the island, also, a considerable number of goats and hogs. The goats unhesitatingly divide into groups of 10 to 15 and tend to frequent the bluffs which rise about 25 ft. above the river in many places. In extreme high water most or all even of this high island is submerged as happened in 1922 and all large mammals are forced out.

H Lake. This is one of a series of beautiful lakes in the woods on the west side of White River a few miles above the mouth of Lagree Bayou. These vary from one to several miles in length, but most of them are narrow, varying from several hundred yards

to about half a mile in width. Large cypress trees commonly grow along the shores, the ground beneath being bare. This section furnishes resting places for myriads of ducks, which are in the rice fields a few miles away. About 25000 acres is said to be owned by Mr. Stutz, who is interested in hunting and is a hunter himself. The area contains considerable timber now maturing and some ready to cut. Mr. Stutz might welcome the creation of a bird refuge under some lease arrangement that would secure him needed protection for his timber some of which is likely to be cut by lumber men. This is said by Wilkins to be about the center of the best duck hunting country in Arkansas.

Ducks. Most of the ducks that visit this section - according to Wilkins more than 95% are mallards. A few tests of several kinds, wood ducks and others make up the remainder. Wilkins thinks that ducks are increasing, but says they have always been so abundant in this section that it is difficult to determine this point with certainty. They are so abundant that hunters have no difficulty, under any conditions in any of the big limit.

Wood duck. Several adults seen



June 25 con

flying in various places, and several litters of small young seen in the water. One litter of 5 young birds unable to fly seen at Goose Lake. Believed by Wilkins to be mermaids but he says they are continually shot by the local people as ~~the~~ young are ~~spelled~~ eating during the summer. Wood ducks have always been common in this section. The young birds are quick to get away when one comes on them suddenly as they dive readily and may attempt to hide by leaving the water when hard pressed as I noted one day when the boat passed a bird close to the bank.

Left the Bridge at 4 PM, Wm.

June 25<sup>th</sup> con.

Buy Amster returning to Little Rock  
by rail and Stanley and I  
taking the boat up the river.  
Discovered H. Lake late in afternoon and  
we tied up to the bank several  
miles up the river for the  
night.

June 26 (Sat). From White  
river bank above H. Lake to  
De Valls Bluff, Ark.

Off up river at 6.15 a.m.

Pass St. Charles 9.30 a.m.

Sterna antillarum. Flock of  
15 on sand bar a short distance  
above St. Charles.

Turdus. Very abundant - often  
a dozen may be seen on a single  
log sunning themselves. As the  
boat approached they drop off  
awkwardly into the water.



Shells. Shell-diggers by dozens  
are operating along river above  
mouth of Tagung Bayou. Shells  
~~are sold for \$10 per 100~~ <sup>\$10 per 100</sup> Men  
~~are waiting to open~~ <sup>are waiting to open</sup> Men  
wages to make a  
but work apparently  
very remunerative. The  
cheapest shells are rather large,  
heavy dark shells with a prominent  
lobe on the hinged side, the  
second grade are more rounded  
in outline and the most  
valuable are of a large  
elongated species that furnish  
shell suitable for pearl  
knife handles and many  
other things. In gathering the  
shells "crows feet" made of  
four wire to form hooks  
with four points are arranged  
on a pipe about 20 ft. in  
length. This is lowered in  
front of the boat and the  
boat is allowed to drift  
slowly backward a ~~that~~  
~~is~~ rectangular piece three  
or four feet wide being  
lowered on a pulley at  
the back of the boat holds  
it ~~is~~ steadily in the  
current. This is known  
as the "rule".

June 27 (Sun)  
Left De Valls Bluff 10 A.M.  
and by ~~the~~ train and arrived  
Memphis about noon; left  
Memphis 6.45 P.M. and arrived  
Blytheville 8.50 P.M.

June 28 (Mon). Blytheville  
to Truman.

Was met by L. L. Bryan and  
made trip with him from  
Blytheville to Truman, following  
southern route nearly to  
Turrell and thence north  
through Marked Tree.

Drove out to Eldredge  
Landing where we saw ~~the~~  
L. B. Nix and arranged with  
him for trip into heron  
roost near St. Francis River  
tomorrow.



June 29 (Tue). Near  
Truman, Ark.

With G. B. Nix and another  
man as guide Bryan and I  
made trip into ~~heron~~ woods  
near St. Francis River. It  
developed that Nix is not  
so very well informed and  
we had to do considerable  
searching. Found considerable  
timber being cut and dropped  
out from points quite near the  
St. Francis River.

Heron rookeries. Found one  
rookery that had contained  
several hundred nests broken  
up by timber cutting which  
included many of the cooties.  
Birds from here were apparently  
moving to a site already

June 29 con.

occupied by a few birds, as indicated by fresh nests seen. The occupied site is in old cypresses, some of very large size, standing in shallow water <sup>on the bottom of</sup> near the St. Francis River. Here I found perhaps 300 heron nests of which at least 200 were great blue and the remainder American egret. Also a few nests of cormorant and Anhinga. at least the latter birds were sitting on nests in tops of cypresses. Young herons of the two species were of large size. No yg. of cormorants or anhinga were seen. I amed that this rookery is probably on land filed



June 29 con.  
upon receipt by a soldier.  
It was opened to entry last  
winter.

Returned to Truman for the  
night.

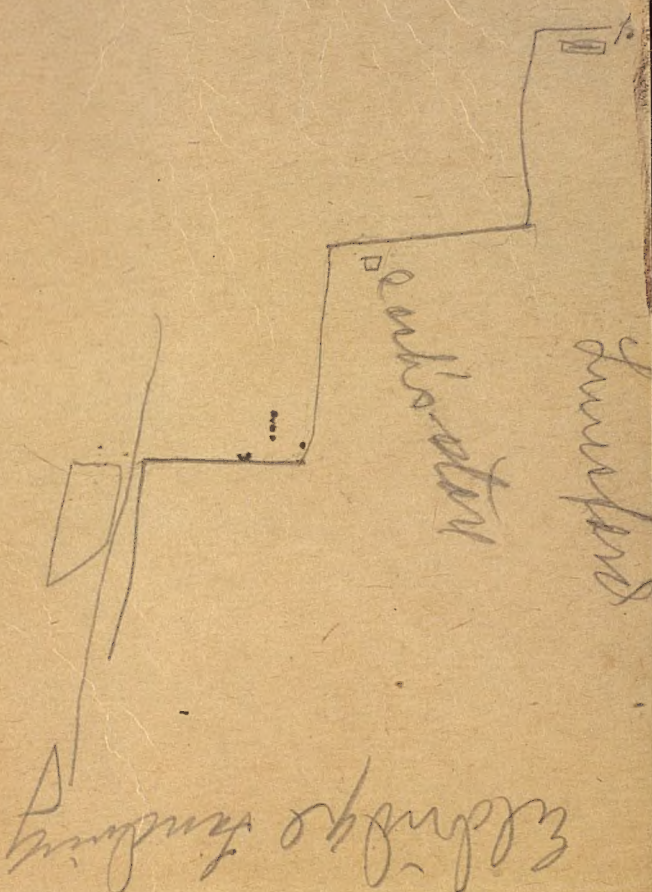
June 30. Truman en  
route to Washington.

Left Truman about 8.30 a.m.  
and arrived Memphis by bus  
11 a.m. Left Memphis 7.30  
P.M. for Washington.

July 1 En route  
Washington, D.C.

July 2  
Arrived Washington about  
12.20 a.m.





23-1      Supper June 23 to dinner  
 24-2      June 24 and supper June  
 25-1      25 to dinner June 26  
 26-2      (6) 4.13      70  
                                 6  
                                 420

Mr. Carmichael

~~State College~~

Juniata

1012 Huntington Ave.

H. Goodman

Juniata.

Crane rook on his land  
probably.



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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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N. W. Hawley  
Sec. Big Lake Outing Club  
Bryn Mawr

Dr. H. S. Davis Pres  
Big Lake Outing Club and  
of local chapter Isaac  
Walton League

Mr. Marshall cut about 20  
over east line of res. for  
nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile near N. E.  
corner. perhaps 50 trees -  
R. Overton indicated -  
Bryant says probably Marshall  
would <sup>be glad to</sup> pay for timber as obnoxious  
timber is serious offense in  
Ark. Fresh cutting and he entered  
res. to get out timber without con-  
sulting warden.